

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092916

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 USIA-12 CU-04 RSC-01 /030 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ GRK: GTCHURCHILL: PR

5/15/63 X20930

APPROVED BY NEA/ GRK: GTCHURCHILL

USIA - MR. JOHNSON (SUBSTANCE)

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R 160004 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS STATE 092916

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SCUL, GR, US

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE FOR ITHACA COLLEGE FILM PROJECT

1. ITHACA COLLEGE PROPOSES TO CREATE A 60- MINUTE EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM ON THE MONASTERIES OF MOUNT ATHOS. DR. JOHN E. KESHISHOGLU, DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS, ITHACA COLLEGE, IS PROJECT DIRECTOR. HE ENVISAGES THIS NON- PROFIT PROJECT AS AN ATTEMPT TO COMBINE SCHOLARSHIP AND FILM TECHNIQUES TO PRESERVE FOR THE FUTURE A PAINSTAKING AND SYMPATHETIC VISUAL DOCUMENT OF THE LIFE STYLE OF THE MONKS WHO ARE CARRYING ON THE ANCIENT TRADITIONS OF BYZANTIUM AND THE ORTHODOX CHURCH.

2. DR. KESHISHOGLU IS A GREEK NATIONAL, GRADUATE OF ANATOLIA COLLEGE, MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE, IOWA; UNIVERSITY OF IOWA (M. A.); AND SYRACUSE U. (PHD). HAS SOUND CREDENTIALS AS EDUCATOR AND FILM MAKER, WITH NUMEROUS AWARDS FOR DOCUMENTARIES AND OTHER WORK. HE IS WELL GROUNDED IN

BYZANTINE STUDIES, HAS DONE RESEARCH IN AND MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH ALL 20 MONASTERIES OF MOUNT ATHOS. DR. KESHISHOGLU WILL BE CONSULTING WITH DR. ERNEST W. UNCLASSIFIED

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SAUNDERS, DEAN OF GARRETT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, AND
PROFESSOR STYLANIOS PELEKANDRIS, UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI. THE PROJECT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY
DR. KESHISHOGLU WITH TWO COLLEAGUES, AND IS SCHEDULED
FOR JUNE THIS YEAR.

3. SINCE GREEK REGULATIONS FORBID FILMING ON MOUNT ATHOS,
DR. KESHISHOGLU OBTAINED A LETTER FROM

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE092916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GTCHURCHILL: PR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730547/aaaajjyd.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by kuehnbc0>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980219
Subject: CLEARANCE FOR ITHACA COLLEGE FILM PROJECT
TAGS: SCUL, GR, US
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005